

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Applicant has, by the instant amendment, cancelled claims 25-44.

By canceling claims 26-44, the drawing corrections set forth on Page 2, paragraph 1, the objections to the specification set forth on Page 4, paragraphs 3 and 4, and the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph set forth on Page 4, paragraphs 5 and 6 are rendered moot.

The dependency of claim 16 has been amended so as to overcome the objection raised on Page 3, paragraph 2 of the office action.

Independent claim 1 has been amended so as to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 15 which was indicated allowable by the examiner and depended directly from independent claim 1. In light of the foregoing, claim 1 and all of the claims which depend therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

Finally, applicant has added new independent claim 45 which includes the subject matter of claim 14 as well as intervening claims 11 and 13. Claim 14 was indicated allowable by the examiner and, therefore, claim 45 is now in condition for allowance.

In light of the foregoing amendments, and the examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, it is submitted that all of the claims as pending are now in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

Appln. SN 09/883,729
Amdt. Dated 05/24/2005
Reply to Office Action
Dated 03/31/2005

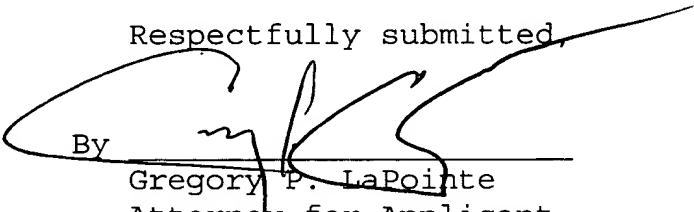
An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any additional fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

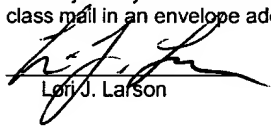
Respectfully submitted,

By


Gregory P. LaPointe
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 28,395

Date: May 24, 2005

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on May 24, 2005.


Lori J. Larson